

Happy New Year! Freemasons' Hall News



Edition 3

Vol. I

January 2008

Freemasons Hall, Ingham Street, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 2DQ Tel: 0191 456 0137

FREEMASONS' HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE A. G. M.

The Annual General Meeting is to be held at 10.30 am on Sunday 20th January 2008

All members of Lodges and Side Degrees based at the hall are welcome to attend

MASONIC HALLS OF SOUTH SHIELDS

Part Two

Freemasons' Hall, Ingham Street

The tender for the new Hall amounting to £2,247.00 was accepted on 16th March 1884. The Foundation Stone was laid on 9th June 1884. A special Lodge was held at the Wesleyan Schoolroom, Chapter Row. By special dispensation the brethren, in full Masonic Regalia and headed by the band of the Third Durham Artillery Volunteers, marched in procession to the site of the new Hall.

The Foundation Stone was laid by the Mayor of South Shields, W. Bro. T.G. Mabane. After the ceremony the procession returned to the Schoolroom and closed the Lodge. A Banquet, held afterwards in the Golden Lion Hotel, was attended by 130 Brethren including distinguished Provincial Officers.

The Hall was opened on 9th February 1885 the Regular Meeting of St. Hilda Lodge - and the St. Hilda and Hadrian Lodges began working in their new home and remain there to this day.

The cost of the Hall was financed by a Mortgage which was finally paid off on 1st October 1916.

In 1925 the hall was extended and improved. The Lodge Room was enlarged, the Banqueting Hall extended to accommodate 170 diners (fire regulations have reduced this substantially) and new Club Rooms, Kitchen, Servery etc., added.

The total cost including refurbishing amounted to £5297.14.8d. This sum was also financed by Mortgage - finally paid off in January 1948.

The Craft continued to flourish in the town and on 17th December 1891 a new Lodge, Hedworth No. 2418 was consecrated at Ingham Street where it continued to meet until 1925 when it moved to its own newly built Hall in Dean Road.

The first decade of the new century saw two new Lodges consecrated at Ingham Street:-

The Lord Barnard Lodge No. 2935 consecrated on 16th October 1902 and The John Readhead Lodge No. 3217 consecrated on 1st June 1907

The Lord Barnard Lodge remained at Ingham Street until 1904 when it moved to its own premises at Whitehead Street, Tyne Dock.

The John Readhead Lodge moved to Whitehead Street immediately after the Consecration.

The last Lodge to be consecrated at Ingham Street was the Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345 on 23rd November 1921 and is still working there.

Wrekendike Lodge No. 6401 was consecrated at the Hedworth Hall on 5th February 1947 but met at Ingham Street from March 1947 to May 1990 after which it transferred to the Hedworth Hall.

The Ingham Street Hall still continues as an active centre of Freemasonry at the ripe old age of 122. Situated adjacent to the Town Centre it has been threatened on a number of occasions by development schemes of the Local Authority. For a variety of reasons (usually financial) these came to nothing until the early 1908's when the adjacent school site was cleared and re-developed as a supermarket. Happily, the Hall was not affected. It now stands in splendid isolation and we have the use of the store's very large car-park.

Next Month: *The Whitehead Street Temple*

Hedworth Masonic Hall

Thursday 27th August 1925

As one year comes to an end and we await the dawn of the next, the lodges of our

scape we now live in. This year marks the very last one in a 82 year history of Masonic events at Hedworth Hall. On Thursday 27th December 2007 the usual Hedworth Christmas meeting was special for a whole host of reasons - and will really not be repeated. The last Masonic meeting at the largest hall in our town began in the usual early and quiet manner, with a short but expert meeting in the temple upstairs.

Meanwhile below, guests, visitors, brethren and their families gathered in the lounge to enjoy another special Masonic occasion, swap some stories and mark the passing of a wonderful building. Around 200 attendees enjoyed a fine 3 course meal, served expertly as is the usual custom.

The tables being cleared and everyone having had more than their share, the formal part of the evening began. As is fitting for a lodge steeped in tradition and well established customs the Worshipful Master WBro Fred Fatkin rose and gave a moving welcome to all his visitors. He thanked them all for sharing this special occasion with the members of Hedworth Lodge, and providing such a fitting send off to Hedworth Hall.

In the room that night were many people who had made this particular event at this particular venue a permanent fixture in their social calendar, indeed my own wife insisted we come along to enjoy such a historic event. This hall was made for such nights and it is with great sadness that an era come to an end.

The entertainment seemed fitting, with a stirring performance from Felling band rousing the audience and ensuring a positive end to a wonderful evening. By the time the festivities had ended and the bar closed all in attendance agreed that a special evening marked the passing of a very special building.



town have even more reason to reflect on the passing of time and the changing land-



Thursday 27th December 2007

FREEMASONS' HALL



January 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	 New Years Day	1 Hadrian 1970 2nd Degree of 2 of 3 eligible brethren Ballot for 2 initiates Ballot for 3 joining members of Washington Lodge 4346	2 Tyne Dock 4218 3rd Degree of Bro W Hamilton	3 Caer Urfa Lodge of Instruction  8.00 pm - 11.00pm (bar)		5 St Lawrence Lodge Practice (10.30am)  Epiphany
	7 St. Lawrence MMM Installation KMH	8 Caer Urfa 4345 1st Degree Hedworth Lodge of Instruction	9 St Lawrence 6402 1st Degree  Muharram (Islamic New Year 1429)	10 Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction Caer Urfa Lodge Committee		12 Hedworth RAC Practice
14 St Hilda 240 1st Degree— Mr Anthony McNamara	15 Lord Barnard 2935 2nd Degree of Bro T E Proctor Market Research Co. 8.30 - 4.30	16 Wrekendike Lodge of Instruction St Michael & All Angels RC 891 Committee	17 Hedworth 2418 RAC Installation of Principals E Comp's M Scott, PPrAGDC as MEZ C D Hornby, as H K U Robson as J			19 FHMC (10.30am) Annual General Meeting
21 St Lawrence Preceptory Installation KST Westoe Lodge of Instruction	22 Tyne Dock 4218 RAC	23 Caer Urfa RAC Installation of Principals E Comp's W S Malcolm, PPrGSwB as MEZ R F Knight, PPrGReg as H B J Naisby as J	24 St. Hilda Lodge of Instruction  Burns' Birthday			
28 Westoe 4750 3rd Degree of one of the following Bro F D Graham-Thomas Bro A M Wheatle	29 John Readhead Lodge of Instruction	30 Tyne Dock Lodge of Instruction	31 Hedworth 2418 2nd Degree and election night			

KEY BLUE Craft RED Chapter GREEN Side/Higher Degrees BROWN Instruction/Practice BLACK Meetings PURPLE (Karate) KMH = Main Hall KST = Small Temple

All events start at 7.00pm precisely unless otherwise stated - All Information Given In Good Faith - Please check in event of a visit

FEBRUARY 2008 - pre-view

Day	Masonic Organisation	No.
First Monday	John Readhead Lodge	3217
First Tuesday	Hadrian Lodge	1970
First Wednesday	Wrekendike Lodge - Installation	6401
First Thursday	Tyne Dock Lodge	4218
Second Monday	St. Hilda Lodge - 1st Degree	240
Second Tuesday	Lord Barnard Chapter	2935
Second Wednesday	Caer Urfa Lodge - 2nd Degree	4345
Second Thursday	St. Lawrence Lodge	6042
Third Monday	St Lawrence Rose Croix - Installation	293
Third Tuesday	Lord Barnard Lodge	2935
Third Wednesday	St. Hilda Chapter	240
Third Thursday	St Michaels & All Angels Rose Croix - Installation	891
Last Monday	Westoe Lodge	4750
Last Thursday	Hedworth Lodge - Installation	2418

May I take this opportunity to thank all the brethren for their assistance in putting together this months Newsletter, to W Bro R Stobbs for his photographs and advice, to W Bro D Cuthbert for the information on the Halls of South Shields and also subsequent work yet to be published, W Bro Octon for checking calendar, to W Bro's G Welsh, P Hamilton, M McTavy, D Dunn, T T Taylor and P Johnson for their help in piecing together the information for the back page and to W Bro N Stephenson for his write up of Hedworth Lodge's last meeting - The Editor

Accuracy and attention to detail

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that what is published is as accurate as possible, there will be at times minor errors (actually some rather large ones and for that we apologise).

However if your Lodge, Chapter or Side Degree wishes to ensure that as much detail is displayed on each month's calendar then please make sure that you send full details to W Bro Hadaway c/o of FHMC - Freemasons' Hall, Ingham Street, South Shields.

The hall management committee meet on the **third Sunday** in each month and hardcopy information can be sent to these meetings, for the following months Newsletter.

Alternatively you can write or send a copy of the relevant summons/information to:-

G Hadaway, Wingland Cottage, 50 Marine Approach, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 2TG

or by email to: geoffhadaway@blueyonder.co.uk

THE REAL SECRET OF
FREEMASONRY
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER



It's time to Mason Up!

An enlightenment from across the pond

When a new Master Mason is raised, the Worshipful Master grants the Senior Warden the authority to invest the newly Raised brother with the "distinguishing badge of a Master Mason." Taking pride in his duty, the Senior Warden makes sure that the new apron fits the invested brother just right. It is snug, square and neat.



The Brethren of the Lodge stand in admiration of this newly raised Brother among Masons who is standing there proudly donned in his perfect fitting "badge of honour." The newly raised Master Mason takes pride in putting away that apron as he heads home, elated and happy, if not somewhat overwhelmed by the lessons he has learned about his new apron and the craft.

Then what happens?

For some the study of Freemasonry, the practice of its rituals, and the contemplation of the lessons learned become a lifelong pursuit. The badge of honour with which they were invested is but the beginning of a long and wonderful Masonic journey for them.

Some Brethren keep the same apron for the rest of their lives doing their best to make sure they always fit the apron. By helping whenever needed, being good men and upright citizens, exemplary husbands and fathers; their conduct as men and Masons ensures that they always fit the apron.

Some truly dedicated craftsmen seem to fit the apron so well that other, more colorful, aprons start to seek them out. These are the Masons that other Masons revere as our leaders and who, by following their example; all Masons become better men. This type of dedicated Mason fits every apron they will ever wear.

For some however that "Badge of honour" once so proudly worn and carefully put away after each meeting, begins to get a little loose on them. They stop attending Lodge for any number of reasons or they do not want to do the duties they were charged to fulfil when they were first given their apron.

Perhaps they only joined for the apron, or the right to say they belong to the Masonic Fraternity. This type of Brother will pay his dues to keep up his membership thinking he is doing his part, but sadly will do nothing

more. It is often said, "we get more out of Masonry than we put into it," which is obvious to those many members who get so much out of Freemasonry and yet put little or nothing back. One cannot continuously make withdrawals from the Bank of Freemasonry without being willing to make at least the occasional deposit.

These members do not fit their aprons.

Most of us know how well our apron fits when we put it on. Sometimes the apron belt needs to be stretched but sometimes we need to stretch too. The question should not be how well does our apron fit us, but how well do we fit our Masonic apron.

Brethren, how do you fit your apron?

If you are finding it a little too loose these days then change what you have to so you may fit the apron once again. Stretch yourself a bit instead of stretching the belt. As we all learned as apprentices, "being the badge of innocence and the bond of friendship. I strongly recommend you ever to wear and consider it as such; and be assured that if you never disgrace that badge it will never disgrace you."

By W. Bro., George Stamp
PM Hinton Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 178 GRA

This is the third edition of the Newsletter and as such we would like to find out what you think about it, what is the good, the bad and the ugly (sorry been watching too many spaghetti westerns).

Are there items that you would like to see covered, do you have any Masonic papers or work that you would like to see published, or regalia you want to sell.

We are especially looking for photos within the South Shields area over the years of Masonic buildings, events or happenings with background information.

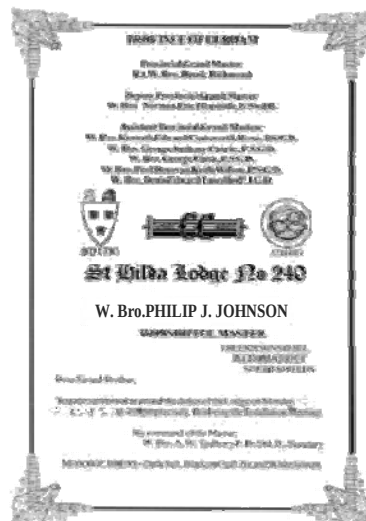
Please forward your comments and/or newsletter contribution to: -

W Bro G Hadaway
c/o Freemasons, Hall Management Committee, Ingham Street, South Shields, Tyne & Wear
Or email them to :-
geoffhadaway@blueyonder.co.uk
or
secretary@caerurfa.co.uk

Sincerely & Fraternally
Geoff

Craft Installations to date and the new line ups

10th December 2007



ST. HILDA LODGE No. 240 OFFICERS 2007-2008

W Bro PHILIP J. JOHNSON	MASTER
Bro LESLIE MICHAEL BIRKENFIELD	S. W.
Bro DONALD FRASER	J. W.
W Bro CHRIS RAVEN, I.P.M.	CHAPLAIN
W Bro TONY DAVEY, PPGSwd	Treasurer
W Bro ALEXANDER W. TUDBERRY, PPGSIB	Secretary
W Bro RODERICK SWALWELL, PPGSD	D of C
W Bro DAVID ALMONER,	Almoner
W Bro JOHN McCORMACK, PPGAGDC	Charity Steward
Bro KENNETH SHORT	S. D.
Bro IAN WILLIAMS	J. D.
W Bro DAVID KING, PM	Asst D of C
W Bro GRAHAM BAINBRIDGE, PM	Asst Secretary
W Bro DAVID EDWARDS, PPGSIB	INNER GUARD
Bro IAN SMITH	SNR STEWARD
W Bro ARTHUR WANN	STEWART
W Bro JOHN DOBIE	STEWART
W Bro JOSEPH HARDING, PPGJD (PM3242)	TYLER
W Bro CHRIS RAVEN,	I.P.M.

Jim & Rita Barker Masonic Regalia
Full Regalia Made

Regalia altered and refurbished
Why buy new?

17 Benedict Road, Foker, Sunderland
S66 1HX

0191 514 1406

1st Meeting - June 17th 11.00
Maiden Meeting - June 24th 11.00
Newcomers Meeting - June 30th 11.00
Chapter Surplus 12.00.00

Uncommenced Meetings

Social Club

Friday 4th January 2008

8.00 pm - 11.00pm

BAR OPEN

Curry & Rice n' Poppadums

Proceeds to RMBI 2010

Members n' Non Mason's Welcome

Actively Supporting Freemasons' Hall

NEW MASTER' OF ST HILDA LODGE

South Shields celebrated the arrival of another new Master this time in the guise of Bro Philip Johnson.

Bro Philip a joining member of St Hilda Lodge finally achieved his ultimate aim of assuming responsibility at the helm of his Lodge on Monday 10th December 2007.



W Bro Philip Johnson
Master, St. Hilda Lodge No. 240

Admirably installed by W Bro Chris Raven IPM, The Provincial Grand Master was represented by W Bro Dr Rakesh Balla PPrSGW. W Bro Phil took over the reins with commendable aplomb.

W Bro Phil started his Masonic career in St Wilfrid Lodge No 5439 in the Province of Northumberland but circumstances prevented him from achieving his goal of the Master's chair and he moved to South Shields joining St Hilda Lodge.

Craft Promotions 2007

Sixty three Brethren were the recipients of a promotion at the recent Craft promotions held in December 2007 and four of those are from South Shields.



W Bro George Welsh, PPrJGW
Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345

W Bro George was initiated into Caer Urfa Lodge No 4345 on Wednesday 9th December 1970, and within six years was

its Master in November 1976, in June 1985 he was promoted to PPrAGDC and ten years later in June 1995 to PPrGswdB and this year given the rank of PPrJGW. George turned his attention to the Chapter in 1975, and was exalted into Caer Urfa RAC 4345 in September of that year, rising to MEZ in 1981, he was subsequently promoted to PrGReg in May 1988, then in April 1992 to PGStB and six years later to PAGSoj. Not content with being in the Craft and Chapter, he was initiated into the Order of the Secret Monitor, within Finchale Conclave 77, before joining Arbeia Conclave in March 1980, rising to SR in September 1986.

For his efforts he was promoted to PrGV in May 1988, then PrGCouncillor in June 1992, achieving PGBB in the following year and in September 2002 rising to PGSwdB.

Thankfully for the typist (me) George only joined one other order, that being St Lawrence Chapter Rose Croix 923, being initiated in October 1982 and rising to MWS in Feb 1992 and subsequently 30° in December 1993. George has also been attentive in other areas of masonry being the Lodges hall representative during 1987 to 2000 the last three years as its chairman, he has also served on the Durham Masonic Benevolent Committee as Lodge representative during 1994 to 2006, he has been either an Assistant or Director of Ceremonies in all but the Rose Croix (probably ran out of spare time!).



W Bro Alan Simpson, PPrGReg
Wrekendike Lodge No. 6401

W Bro Alan was initiated into Wearmouth Lodge 2934 on Monday, 10th February 1975. Attaining the Chair of King Solomon in that Lodge in January 1984 and in June 1993 he was promoted to Provincial Grand rank attaining PPrSGD. W Bro Alan also joined Durham Lodge of Installed Masters 2934 and became its Worshipful Master in 1994

He has also turned his attentions onto Mark masonry by joining Ernest Dixon Mark Master Masons Lodge 1015, rising to the Masters' chair in 1985 for which he holds the Provincial Mark rank of PPrGJW as well as PAGStB. W Bro Alan became a member of Bernard Gilpin Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners 860 receiving ProvGRank in 1995.

Returning back to the Craft W Bro Alan then joined Wrekendike Lodge 6401 in 1998 and this year promoted to PPrGReg.



W Bro Gordon Hall Finch, PPrGswdB
Hadrian Lodge No. 1970

W Bro Gordon Hall Finch was initiated into Hadrian Lodge 1970 on Tuesday 2nd June 1987 and became Worshipful Master in 1992, and again in 2002.

W Bro Finch is also a member of Lodge of Fellowship and in 2004 became its Master 2004. He achieved his first Provincial promotion in 1998 as PPrGStdB.

W Bro Gordon is a member of St Hilda RAC 240 in which he became First Principal in 2001 receiving PPrGStdB in 2007. He is also a member of both the Royal Ark Mariners and Mark Masonry the former being as a member of Rockcliffe RAM 362 and the latter as a past Master being also promoted to PPrAGDC.



W Bro Trevor C Murray, PPrGswdB
Tyne Dock Lodge No. 4218

W Bro Trevor Charles Murray joined Hedworth Lodge 2418 in August 1958, and was Master of that Lodge in 1969. About seven years later he was awarded the Provincial honour of PPrAGStdB. W Bro Trevor left Hedworth Lodge in 1999 and joined Tyne Dock Lodge 4218, proposed by W Bro John H Barnes and seconded by W Bro Alan Little.

In 2002 he was appointed Almoner and also took on role of Benevolent Representative. W Bro Murray, it has been said he has done an absolutely cracking job, and whilst his forerunner Bro Eddie Todd used to be a good Almoner for them, W Bro Trevor has taken this to a new level, making a regular round of contact with brethren who aren't seen very often or are know are unwell. He has since introduced a regular report to the Lodge Meetings to bring this news directly to the brethren.